

on many boards, including the board of directors for the 219 Henry Street Corporation and the Department Center for Education and Health Services.

Dr. From has also received numerous honors, ranging from being named among the "Outstanding Young Men in America" in 1974, to being included in the 1997-98 Whos's Who in Medicine and Health Care.

Tonight, however, Dr. From will be honored for his outstanding contribution to the Gouverneur Hospital Community Advisory Board. Dr. From was first elected to the board in 1974 by over 3,000 diverse members of the New York City community. He served as treasurer until 1977, and then proceeded to serve as chairman of the board for 21 years. The community and Gouverneur Hospital have benefitted immensely from his wisdom and guidance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking and congratulating Dr. From for his many years of outstanding service to this board and to the community. It is a privilege to have such an outstanding leader in my district.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER CLAIRE CONNELLY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen police officer from Riverside, California. Officer Claire Connelly, who was an 18-month veteran of the force, is the first female Riverside police officer ever to be killed in the line of duty. She contributed generously of her time and talents to help others and to make her community a better place in which to live and work.

She was a bright, caring, and compassionate individual who made an everlasting impression in her short life. Claire Connelly went out every day to make a difference and she did—some days in small ways, some days in big ways, and on July 12, 1998, at the cost of her life. One cannot ask more of peace officers. Officer Connelly deserves our deepest respect and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me today in remembering this fine officer. On behalf of the residents of the 43rd Congressional District, I extend my prayers and most heartfelt sympathy to her family and loved ones.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, once again it is with pride that I rise to pay tribute to the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade, on its tenth year of celebrating the culture and contributions of the Puerto Rican community to our nation.

The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade will be held on Sunday in my South Bronx Congres-

sional District. The event is the culmination of a series of activities surrounding Puerto Rican Week in the Bronx.

Under the leadership of its founder, Mr. Angel L. Rosario, and its president, Mr. Francisco Gonzalez, the Parade has grown into one of the most colorful and important festivals of Puerto Rican culture in the five Boroughs of New York City and beyond.

The Parade brings together people from all ethnic backgrounds, including Puerto Ricans from the island and all across the nation.

It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of thousands of people who will march with pride from Mount Eden to 161st Street and the Grand Concourse in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage. The Puerto Rican flag and other ornaments in the flag's red, white, and blue will decorate the festival.

As one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful that so many people can have this experience, which will change the lives of many of them. There's no better way to see our Bronx community.

The event will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. The Parade ends at 161st and the Grand Concourse, where live music, Puerto Rican food, crafts, and other entertainments await partakers. It is expected that this year's Parade will surpass last year's half-million visitors.

In addition to the Parade, President Gonzalez and the many organizers will provide the community with nearly a week of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Puerto Rican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Puerto Rican culture, which has brought much pride to the Bronx community.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN KELLY

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to pay tribute today to a truly exceptional Marine, and American, Colonel John Kelly, who serves as the Marine Corps Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives. Today, John pins on the rank of "full-bird" colonel. I cannot think of an officer more deserving of this promotion.

Military promotion boards make their selections based on sustained and superior performance, as well as on an officer's ability to lead. John has demonstrated throughout his career that he is an outstanding leader of Marines. And that is the essence being a Marine!

A native of Brighton, Massachusetts, John began his military career by enlisting in the Marine Corps on September 10, 1970. From the beginning, John demonstrated his leadership potential. Only nineteen months after enlisting, John was meritoriously promoted to sergeant—a feat that is nearly unheard of! Shortly thereafter, John was selected for the coveted Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in just over three years.

Upon graduation, John was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps on November 1, 1975. Throughout his twenty-eight-year career, John Kelly has commanded every echelon of infantry unit from fire team to battalion. His non-Fleet Marine Force assignments included serving as executive officer of the Marine detachments aboard the aircraft carriers U.S.S. *Forrestal* and U.S.S. *Independence*. During his ship-board duty, John acquired his "sea-legs" by qualifying as "Officer of the Deck Underway," a qualification that is difficult to achieve and allowed him to conn the ship during flight operations. Among his other assignments, John was stationed at the Marine Corps' Combat Development Command where he served as instructor at "The Basic School," manpower monitor, and director of the Infantry Officers Course. John also has earned post-graduate degrees from Georgetown University and the National Defense University.

On June 11, 1995, Colonel Kelly reported for duty at the Marine Corps' House Liaison Office and immediately assumed responsibility for the direction of the liaison office's activities, which include responding to Congressional and constituent inquiries as well as planning, coordinating and escorting Members and Congressional Staff on domestic and overseas travel. I benefited personally from John's professionalism, thoroughness and attention to detail, having had the opportunity to travel with him to military installations around the world. I know that I speak for all of my colleagues in thanking John for his integrity, his dedication to duty and, above all, for his friendship. John is a natural leader in the finest tradition of the nation and the Marine Corps.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize John's family. The nation asks a lot of our service members. And when we ask a lot of the men and women in uniform, we also ask a lot of the spouses and families that are left behind. During John's career, he and his family have made many sacrifices for his nation. Therefore, I would also like to thank John's family—his lovely wife, Karen, and their three children, John, Robert and Kathleen—for their support to John and for their contributions to the Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I know first hand that Colonel John Kelly is ready to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead. John epitomizes what it means to devote oneself to serving the nation. I look forward to the day when I will call him "General." Semper Fidelis!

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL D. WIDLER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an individual who has, for the past 30 years, faithfully and honorably served in the United States of America while in the United States Naval Reserves. His name is Michael D. Widler of Grand Junction, Colorado. During his distinguished career, Mr. Widler, a Master Chief Petty Officer, provided exceptional service and sustained outstanding performance while serving with the Naval Security Group, from October 8, 1969 through